

## **Can Murderers and Child Predators**

### **Be Saved?**

Pastor Joseph Clark – March 11, 2021

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,<sup>[a]</sup> and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister<sup>[b][c]</sup> will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’<sup>[d]</sup> is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

- Matthew 5:21-22

It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

-Luke 17:2

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- Matthew 22:37-39

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged *there* was <sup>[a]</sup>hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the <sup>[b]</sup>Christ? Save Yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other responded, and rebuking him, said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed *are suffering* justly, for we are receiving <sup>[c]</sup>what we deserve for our crimes; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!” <sup>43</sup> And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

- Luke 23:39-43

The answer to this question may offend some and encourage others. But as Christ instructed clearly:

- His followers must take on the burden of their own crosses.
- That there is only one sin that is unforgivable. Blasphemy (rejecting the saving Grace of Christ) of the Holy Spirit.
- That His way is controversial and will divide families and cause the world to hate his followers.

As I have pointed out earlier, we do not cobble our faith together based on what pleases and comforts us. God makes the rules. We follow them. Not the other way around. That includes being faithful when His way challenges us, provokes us, and causes us confusion and discomfort. Man is not the measure of God. God is the measure of man.

Can a murder or a child molester be saved and go to Heaven? The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word, Yes. Can a serial killer or a child murderer be saved and go to Heaven? God tells us in The Holy Bible, yes.

Many readers will say, “How can this be?!” “This is an outrage!?” “Is God not just?!”

First and foremost, we must remember that no amount of sin can keep us out of Heaven and no amount of works can buy our entry into Heaven. The way to salvation is sincerely choosing to receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Lord and Savior, in accordance with His Gospel. God knows our hearts. There is no hiding this sincerity from Him.

Next, we must remember that although God will forgive all sins if we are born-again, and if we sincerely repent. To repent is to be sincerely regretful and remorseful of our sins, to seek God’s forgiveness, and to not repeat them.

Furthermore, we must remember that God recognize the legitimacy of secular laws, secular government, and earthly justice. In other words, although a child offender

or serial killer can be born-again, saved, come to Christ, they still must pay society's price for their crimes.

Lastly, we must remember that all sin is sin. Christ taught us that in the eyes of God, to hate is to murder. To call our brother or sister "stupid" is to murder them. For a married person to lust after someone other than their spouse, is as much adultery as to fornicate with someone other than their spouse.

This is encouraging for us. For if God can forgive a violent criminal, he can surely forgive us.

The Holy Spirit in the Word also teaches us that we all will be judged by Christ. Saved and unsaved alike will face judgement. We are assured eternal salvation in Christ, but that does not mean that we do not face His judgement. We all will. But we have the assurance that somehow, in God's great unfathomable mind, those saved in Christ will still go to join Him in Heaven. Is Christ's salvation a get out jail card? A form of last-minute insurance? No. As I pointed out earlier, God knows your heart. Many claim to come to Christ who are insincere. Many go through Baptism, who are insincere. God knows our heart and only he knows who is truly saved.

"Man forgives man who raped, killed his 9-year-old daughter." - Fox8.com

"The Amish forgave the man who killed five of their children..." – Post-Gazette

"I completely forgive him', woman seeks reprieve for rapist..." – Irish Times

The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word about God's forgiveness:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- 1 John 1:9

"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

- Mark 11:25

“For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

- Matthew 26:28

In closing. Forgiveness is not about condoning the offence. Forgiveness is about endeavoring to glorify God by placing your relationship with him between you and the offender.

“Pastor whose wife was killed last year says he forgives her killers.”

- New York Times